

Human Services, Health and Public Safety

Taking care of our most vulnerable citizens and ensuring public safety are among the most fundamental responsibilities of state government. As we identify funding sources for our public education system, cutting services for individuals with developmental disabilities, those with mental illness and children who are abused or neglected is not acceptable. After earlier rounds of reductions, the Governor proposes modest increases in vital areas.

Investments

Children's Administration

Budget priority: Improving outcomes for children and families in the child welfare system

Offer **Family Assessment Response (FAR)** as an alternative to Child Protective Services. Lower-risk families will receive a comprehensive assessment of child safety, risk of subsequent child abuse or neglect, family strengths and basic needs. (\$8.3 million)

Lower caseloads for **Child Protective Services** workers to reduce response and investigation times. Current caseloads are higher than the recommended level of 15 cases per caseworker. (\$5.9 million)

Developmental Disabilities and Long-Term Care

Budget priority: Protecting the most vulnerable citizens by providing personal care, housing and employment services

Fund interest arbitration award for **individual providers** and parity for **agency providers** who offer personal care services to elderly and disabled clients in their homes. (\$146.1 million)

Serve 219 additional individuals with developmental disabilities graduating from high

school by moving 553 state-only employment clients to the **Medicaid waiver** to leverage federal funds. The 106 employment clients who are not now eligible for the Medicaid waiver will still be served with state funds. (\$7.0 million in federal funds)

Reduce **Adult Protective Services** caseloads and improve response and investigation times for vulnerable adults residing in their own homes by adding 22.7 staff. (\$3.6 million)

Add community placements to maintain services for 51 **individuals with developmental disabilities** who are living in state residential settings including foster care placements, mental health institutions, and juvenile rehabilitation and Department of Corrections facilities. (\$3.0 million)

Reduce caseloads for **residential care investigators** who investigate abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of adults in residential settings by adding 20.4 employees. (\$1.3 million)

Economic Services

Budget priority: Providing assistance to vulnerable individuals and families

Use **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families** grant funds to move homeless children and families to stable housing, leveraging housing funds in the Department of Commerce. (\$10.0 million)

Terminate the **disabled grant program** to maximize the refinancing of Medicaid expansion. Services provided through the Essential Needs and Housing Support program in the Department of Commerce will provide housing and other supports, such as transportation vouchers. The aged grant program will continue.

Mental Health

Budget priority: Providing mental health services to those in crisis, promoting client and staff safety in institutions, and treating individuals in appropriate settings

Implement the **Involuntary Treatment Act** sooner to treat individuals at risk to themselves and their communities. (\$15.8 million)

Provide funding to Eastern and Western State hospitals to promote **safety for patients and staff** and continue state mental hospital accreditation. One-time capital improvements will also be made for such items as secondary fencing and metal detectors. (\$10.1 million)

Establish **enhanced service facilities** in the community to provide an alternative placement to a state institution for individuals with dementia or traumatic brain injury. (\$1.5 million)

Health Care Authority

Budget priority: Keeping health care affordable by promoting programs that lead to better health

Fund **adult dental services** for currently eligible Medicaid and newly eligible Medicaid adults as a result of Medicaid expansion. Dental coverage for newly eligible adults will be fully paid by the federal government. (\$23.8 million)

Align **Medicaid plan benefits** for all eligible adults with the 10 essential health benefit categories identified in the Affordable Care Act. Services include physical and occupational therapy, shingles vaccinations and mental health services. (\$7.9 million)

Expand **employee wellness programs** to improve employee health and wellness and reduce the growth in medical costs. (\$5.0 million)

Continue policy of **not requiring cost-sharing** for Medicaid clients.

Department of Corrections

Budget priority: Ensuring the safety of those who work in the state's correctional facilities

Fill 28 critical staff **custody positions** and provide **radio system infrastructure** to improve staff and offender safety in medium- and minimum-security prisons. (\$3.5 million)

Provide funding for ballistic and stab-resistant body armor, security cameras and electronic control systems to open and lock doors to improve **prison staff safety**. (\$1.6 million)

Reductions/Savings

Capture **\$296.0 million** in savings through Medicaid expansion. The federal government will cover 100 percent of the health care costs for approximately 255,000 newly eligible, low-income adults. Beginning in state fiscal year 2017, the federal share will decrease to 95 percent and to 90 percent by 2020.

Save **\$260.0 million** by continuing the hospital safety net assessment, which was set to expire June 30, 2013.

Capture **\$70.0 million** in savings from lower WorkFirst and Working Connections Child Care caseloads. WorkFirst helps low-income Washington parents get back to work.

Save **\$36.5 million** by freezing Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rates at fiscal year 2013 levels.

Save **\$13.4 million** by eliminating Social Security Income facilitators for disabled childless adults. This function will be shifted to the counties as part of safety net reform.